

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 2, 2012, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Nika Dahlbacka, Joshua Marshall, Andrea Negrete, Greg Ramirez, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners Absent: Jessica Andrade, Marsha Mavunkel, Marty Penner

SOCR Staff Present: Michael Chin, Felicia Yearwood

Guest Speakers: Jorge Baron, Mishi Faruquee, Ken Blucker

Guests: Jung Lee, Michael Mitchell, Isabel Bussarakum, Alejandra Gonza, Catherine Moore, Janet Perez Ellis

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Joshua Marshall

Approval of Minutes: July, 2012 minutes were approved as amended

SOCR report: Michael Chin

- A new website for Paid Sick and Safe Time has been launched. Information will be mailed to 57,000 business owners and several workshops will be conducted.
- Seattle Human Rights Rules Chapter 40 and 46 received no comments.
- Outreach is being conducted on the right to public breastfeeding, criminal background employer best practices, and the fair tenant screening act.

Presentation by Guest Speakers:

Jorge Baron, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

- Northwest Detention Center capacity has dramatically increased in the past decade.
- Some immigrants are losing their status because of sometimes minor offenses
- Secure Communities will provide linkage between law enforcement and immigration enforcement, which leads to longer detentions
- The public can perceived that SPD is engaged in immigration enforcement
- Domestic violence situations can end with arrest of victim
- Citizens and asylum seekers have been flagged
- Arrests that do not lead to charges can nonetheless lead to deportation
- The Commission can assist by maintaining public attention on this issue
- Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of issuing a joint resolution with the King County Civil Rights Commission

Mishi Faruquee, Washington Coalition Against the Death Penalty

- The Coalition is seeking to support Washington State legislation against the death penalty following a national trend.
- The Coalition asks the Commission to advocate for a City resolution, join the Coalition, and endorse the campaign.

Work Plan Review

- Jennifer and Nika will work on the Rights of the Child
- Chris and Andrea will work on CEDAW

Committee Reports:

Police Accountability: The settlement agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the City must be approved by Judge James Robart. A separate Memorandum of Understanding requires creation of an advisory Community Police Commission to report on implementation of the agreement and to review the structure of the Office of Professional Accountability. CM Harrell has expressed interest in creating a separate abuse review commission. CM Licata indicated an interest in adjusting the timeline for production and retention of evidence in police abuse cases.

Appeals: August 17th panel: Nika Dahlbacka, Greg Ramirez, and Andrea Negrete

Announcements: Jennifer Yogi will attend the International Association of Official Human Rights Organization conference in New Orleans.

Adjourned: 8:00